

been prepared by Prof. Moseley as a school field and text book, but will prove of much service to many other classes of field students. The section on trees is especially suitable for autumn use, that on stars for winter and the bird chapters for spring, the whole designed to encourage students to observe and think for themselves. The plan is well conceived and well carried out, with many practical suggestions, pertinent questions and helpful lists of reference works. Better than all, in a work of this sort, each section has been submitted to a number of competent critics who have read the text and offered suggestions.

Taking up the section devoted to birds, we start with some practical suggestions for bird study in the field and then, beginning with the Thrushes, the various groups are considered in systematic order, while chapters on migration, classification, attracting birds, etc., are interspersed as we proceed. The work treats almost entirely of the birds of the Northern and Eastern States, and the extralimital species which are mentioned here and there have not always been wisely selected. The Russet-backed Thrush, the merest variety of our Olive-back, is referred to but no mention is made of the very distinct Varied Thrush, and again there is mention of the Florida Wren which only a specialist would recognize as in any way different from the Carolina Wren, while the Gnatcatcher is omitted altogether. It would we think have been better to have adhered rigidly to a definite geographic area. The same criticism also extends to the colored illustrations. There seems to be no excuse for introducing such species as the California Jay and Black-headed Grosbeak in a work where the other typical western birds are omitted, while worse yet is the labelling of the picture of the Bronzed Grackle, "Purple Grackle" and that of the Prairie Horned Lark, "Horned Lark." With such a wealth of admirable illustrations, too, it is hard to understand why such a wretchedly crude cut as that of the Summer Tanager on its nest should have been included. However, these are but minor points in an admirable book which cannot be too widely introduced into the schools of the east and which could well serve as a model for a similar work on western birds. Our country is too large to attempt to make one text book cover its entire area. The colored plates are mainly those published some years ago by the U. S. Biological Survey in the bulletin 'Fifty Common Birds of Farm and Orchard' and are admirably printed.—W. S.

Miss Ball's 'A Year With the Birds.'—Still another popular bird book¹ which has appeared recently is Miss Ball's 'A Year With the Birds' consisting of a collection of the best poems which have been written about birds together with a number of original verses by the author treating of the other familiar species. These embody the characters of the various

¹ A Year With the Birds, by Alice E. Ball. Illustrated by Robert Bruce Horsfall. 57 Colored Plates. Dodd, Mead and Company, New York City, 1918, Svo. pp. 1-191. \$3.00.

birds to a remarkable degree and the songs and call notes are usually brought into the verse in a very clever manner. Poems are often remembered where prose is forgotten and are moreover particularly attractive to many persons, especially children, so that Miss Ball's book will carry the message of bird study to many who would probably not otherwise receive it.

The various species are arranged in the order of spring arrival beginning with the residents and winter visitants, while tables of arrival and departure dates are interspersed. The numerous colored plates make the work an attractive picture book. Many of these are from the leaflets of the National Association of Audubon Societies, and are referred to in the preface as "Audubon plates"—a rather confusing term—while the rest are drawn by Mr. Bruce Horsfall especially for this work. We trust that Miss Ball's work will meet with the appreciation that it deserves.—W. S.

Gilmore's 'Birds of Field, Forest and Park.'—This attractively gotten-up book¹ is intended to give the would-be nature student an intimate knowledge of our wild bird life. It is distinctly popular in character and covers the birds of the eastern United States as observed by the author at his home in Maine, as well as in New York, New Jersey and "in the Southern States." While usually careful to mention localities the writer occasionally forgets to tell us to which region his observations pertain, an important matter in a work of such wide scope.

Mr. Gilmore is an entertaining writer and a good observer and his accounts of the habits of the birds he has personally observed are well done and full of interest, and especially attractive are the chapters entitled "In the Orchard" and "The Wilderness in June" where the attempt at systematic arrangement of the subject matter is abandoned and he writes of nature as he finds her.

There is always a field for nature books which stimulate the interest of the reader and the main text of Mr. Gilmore's book will give much pleasure and information to a wide circle of readers.

Unfortunately where he has had occasion to compile his information and to write upon the wider problems of ornithology his results have not been so happy—indeed the first two chapters, being largely of this character, could, it seems to us, have been omitted with advantage in a work of this kind. It is here that we find a number of unfortunate statements. Young Grackles, for instance, do not have "spotted coats," nor does the young male bird in species in which the sexes differ in color, "resemble the father, and the young female the mother;" while we cannot agree that in the

¹ *Birds of Field, Forest and Park*, By Albert Field Gilmore, with a Foreword by T. Gilbert Pearson, Secretary of The National Association of Audubon Societies, with Illustrations by R. Bruce Horsfall and Louis Fuertes. The Page Company. Boston, MDCCC-XIX, Svo., pp. i-xii+1-318, numerous half-tone and several colored plates. \$2.50 net.